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POLITICAL MATTERS

DIST 6 OCTOBER 1971

COUNTRY COSTA RICA/CENTRAL AMERICA

DOI 19-25 SEPTEMBER 1971

SUBJECT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 5-23-94 BY SPBMAC/EH JFK

ACQ EL SALVADOR, SAN SALVADOR (29 SEPTEMBER 1971) FIELD NO. [HSS-2550] (S)

SOURCE (S) [A DEPUTY OF] THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. HE IS A USUALLY RELIABLE REPORTER. HE OBTAINED THE INFORMATION FROM A PERSON WHO ATTENDED THE SEMINAR.

EX-112 REC-34 109-12-209-727

1. WHILE THE 19 TO 25 SEPTEMBER 1971 SEMINAR AT ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA, FOR SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA WAS ENTITLED "THE STRATEGY OF SOCIAL POWER," THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR WAS TO ACCOMPLISH A VERY DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, AND COSTA RICA. TO THIS END, THE TWENTY-FOUR PARTICIPANTS IN THE SEMINAR WERE PRESENTED AT THE OUTSET WITH A VERY DETAILED

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QUESTIONNAIRE PREPARED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FORMATION (IFEDEC) CONCERNING THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EACH OF THE SIX CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. LAUREANO B A T I S T A, THE IFEDEC REPRESENTATIVE AT THE SEMINAR, REQUESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE COUNTRIES PREPARE WRITTEN REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

2. COSTA RICAN AND NICARAGUAN REPRESENTATIVES, PARTICULARLY JORGE M O N G E OF COSTA RICA, REACTED IN AN EXTREMELY NEGATIVE AND SUSPICIOUS FASHION TO THE IFEDEC QUESTIONNAIRE AND REFUSED TO PROVIDE WRITTEN ANSWERS. OTHER REPRESENTATIVES HAD LITTLE DESIRE TO PROVIDE WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE BUT GENERALLY DID NOT REACT AS STRONGLY AS DID THE COSTA RICANS AND NICARAGUANS. THOSE MOST OPPOSED TO BATISTA'S REQUEST EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE QUESTIONNAIRE WAS AN IFEDEC PLOY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THEY DUBBED THE QUESTIONNAIRE EFFORT "OPERATION CAMELOT." BATISTA EXPLAINED THAT THE INFORMATION REQUESTED WAS REQUIRED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN CENTER FOR INFORMATION (CIDAL), AN ORGANIZATION RECENTLY FOUNDED IN CARACAS BY THE AMERICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (ODCA) AND HEADED BY BATISTA. THE SALVADORAN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE SEMINAR, AT LEAST, HAD NEVER BEFORE HEARD OF CIDAL. IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED THAT NO WRITTEN

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(classification) (dissem controls)